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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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PUBLIC HEARING AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
ON AN APPLICATION FOR RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL
LICENSE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

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PREMIER ENVIRONMENTAL, L.L.C. / DISPOSAL WELL

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BOHEMIA, PLAQUEMINES PARISH

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Agency Interest No. 50593

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Activity Nos. LIC20050001

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The public hearing in the above titled
matter was taken at the Department of
Environmental Quality, 602 North Street, Galvez
Building, Natchez Room, Baton Rouge, Louisiana,
beginning at 6:00 p.m. on March 27, 2006.

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BEFORE: Mark LaCour, Certified Stenomask

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Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana

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H E A R I N G

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MR. REINE:

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Good evening. Let the record
reflect the time is six p.m. My name is
Robert Reine. I'm an employee of the
Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality. I will be serving as hearing
officer this evening, Monday, March 27th
2006. Due to the situation in
Plaquemines Parish after the hurricanes
and to assure a better opportunity for
the public to attend this public
hearing, LDEQ previously held a public
hearing on March 21st 2006 in Belle
Chasse, Louisiana to receive comments
regarding the application deemed
complete by Premier Environmental,
L.L.C. This hearing is scheduled to
accept public comments concerning the
Application for a Radioactive Material
License that has been deemed complete
and the associated Environmental
Assessment Statement for Premier
Environmental, L.L.C., 628 Village Lane
South, Mandeville, Louisiana, 70471 for

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the proposed Naturally Occurring
Radioactive Material (NORM) Disposal

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Facility, Agency Interest Number 50593 and Activity Tracking Number LIC20050001. The proposed site is to be located at 20487 Highway 15, Section One, T17S, R15E, at the end of State Highway 39 in Bohemia, Plaquemines Parish. Premier Environmental, L.L.C. submitted an application for a new disposal facility for commercial Exploration and Production (E&P) waste containing regulated levels of naturally occurring radioactive material. The facility would use the deep well injection disposal method for the processed NORM material from gas drilling productions and related activities. The main radioisotopes are Radium-226, Radium-228 and the associated daughter product and Lead-210. The application provides a detailed plan as required by LDEQ, Emergency and Radiological Services Division for the operation, personnel

training and safety, and emergency contingencies for preparation and deep well injection of NORM waste. The facility consist of an off loading area and three restricted areas, a NORM Waste Storage area, a NORM Waste Preparation area, and a NORM Waste Injection Area. The quantities of NORM material in slurry form to be injected into the well are estimated to be between 1800 and 2000 barrels per day as noted in their DNR permit application. The Environmental Assessment Statement submitted by the applicant addresses avoidance of potential and real environmental effects, balancing of social and economic benefits against environmental impact costs, and alternative sites, projects and mitigate measures.

This hearing is not being conducted in a question and answer format. Please remember that the purpose of this public hearing is for DEQ to receive your comments concerning

the Application for Radioactive Material License that has been deemed complete and associated Environmental Assessment Statement.

This hearing is to provide all individuals a chance to be heard regardless of their position on the Deemed Complete Application and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement.

Courteous behavior is expected of everyone at all times. You may speak in support of the application deemed

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complete; in opposition to the application deemed complete; or simply to provide additional information. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity to comment, unless testimony is not related to the purpose of this hearing. Your comments will be evaluated and addressed by the department's written response. A public notice requesting public comment on the deemed complete application and associated Environmental Assessment

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Statement, and advertising this public hearing was published in The Advocate of Baton Rouge, The Times-Picayune of New Orleans, and The Plaquemine Gazette of Belle Chasse on Friday, February 10th 2006 and Friday, February 17th 2006. A copy of the deemed complete application and the associated Environmental Assessment Statement is available for inspection and review at the LDEQ, Public Records Center, Room 127, 602 North 5th Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Viewing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Additional copies are also available for review at the Plaquemines Parish Library, Belle Chasse Branch, 8442 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, 70037, and the New Orleans Public Library Headquarters, 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70112. Also the information can be viewed on the LDEQ Permits Public Notice Web Page at www.deq.state.la.us/news/PubNotice/.

In addition, copies of the public

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notice were mailed to individuals who have requested to be placed on the mailing list maintained by the Office of Environmental Services on February 10th 2006. In accordance with Louisiana Administrative Code, Title 33, Part XV, Section 116.A.4.a.v, comments received by 12:30, Thursday, March 30th 2006, would be considered prior to the final decision. All comments received by 12:30, Thursday, March 30th 2006, shall be retained by the department and considered in determining whether to issue or deny the radioactive material application deemed complete for Premier Environmental, L.L.C. Written comments on this deemed complete application and associated Environmental Assessment Statement may be submitted to Ms. Soumaya Ghosn, LDEQ-OES, Environmental Assessment Division, P.O. Box 4313, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70821-4313. Under Louisiana Revised Statutes 30:2017, as revised by the legislature

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in the 2004 session, the department is

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required to follow the following order with the provision that the presiding officer may give preference to a public official to speak at any time during the hearing. However, any time limit set for citizen testimony shall apply to public officials. The department must provide up to 30 minutes to the permit applicant for the introductory presentation. Thereafter, preference for speaking up to one hour is given as follows: for the first hour, to those citizens who live within a two mile radius of the location of the facility. For the second hour, to those citizens who work within a two-mile radius of the location of the facility. And for the third, to those citizens who live within the parish of the location of the facility. Thereafter, each hour of the hearing shall alternate between those who are in support of the deemed completed application and associated Environmental Assessment Statement and those who are oppose to the deemed

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completed application and associated Environmental Assessment Statement. The order of tonight's hearing will be based on the information provided by the speaker on the registration form. Anyone who registered to speak but did not provide the necessary information will be given the opportunity to speak, however, they will be called last in the order of registration.

This hearing is being transcribed, therefore, I ask that each speaker begin by stating for the record their name, address, and any organization he or she may represent. At this time I would like to ask the permit applicant's representative to come forward and make their introductory presentation.

MR. CONNOLLY:

My name is John Connolly and I'm a consultant for Premier Environmental, L.L.C. My address is 19345 Point O Woods Court, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70809. I'm here to read a brief statement on behalf of the company.

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Premier Environmental, L.L.C. has designated and applied for a permit to operate a commercial exploration and production oil waste field injection facility to pump waste containing regulated levels of naturally occurring radioactive materials referred to as NORM into a deep well. The subject facility was designed as a superior

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alternative to the current approved method of diluting NORM with non-contaminated materials to a level with can be spread on the ground. This type of facility is a proven and technologically safe means to inject into deep well NORM contaminated exploration and production waste that has been accepted and recognized by industry, government agencies, and the public as the single best method to manage potentially harmful waste in the interest of the public and the environment. This type of injection process is further edified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Both the regional administrator and the chief ground water of the UIC section has noted in 1997 correspondence stated the technology of underground injection is proven and accepted as one of the most effective methods of safe fluid waste disposal. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality concurs with the EPA on this issue as noted in a quote from the DEQ records of decision for Chevron USA, Inc. and their NORM License Number LA7818-S01 dated July 7th 1997, whereby Mr. Gus Von Bodungen assistant secretary of the Office of Air Quality and Radiation Protection stated, the department believes that there are no alternative projects or technologies which offer more protection to the environment than this proposed injection well.

Again, my name is John Connolly. I'm here making this statement on behalf of Premier Environmental, L.L.C. and that concludes my statement. Thank you.

MR. REINE:

Do we have any individuals signed up right now to speak? At this time we'll have a short recess until seven o'clock unless other individuals here to speak on either behalf or opposition or to give information. I will keep the record open until that time. If no one shows up at seven o'clock we will close the record and read in the closing remarks. Thank you.

(OFF THE RECORD)

MR. REINE:

Given that there are no speakers who wish to add their comments to the record we're going to go ahead and close the record at this time. I would like to remind you that the comment period for this application for radioactive material license deemed complete and the associated Environmental Assessment

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Statement for the Premier Environmental,
L.L.C., NORM Disposal Facility, Bohemia,
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana ends at
12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 30, 2006.
At this time this hearing is closed. If

there are no other comments I would like
to thank you for your attention and
participation in this hearing. Let the
record reflect that the time is 6:58.
This hearing is closed.

WHEREUPON, AT 6:58 P.M. THE HEARING ENDED

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R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

I, Mark LaCour, Certified Court
Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana,
the officer, as defined in Rule 28 of the
Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and/or
Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana Code of Civil
Procedure, before whom this sworn testimony
was taken, do hereby state on the record:

That due to the interaction in the
spontaneous discourse of this proceeding,
dashes (--) have been used to indicate pauses,
changes in thought, and/or talk overs; that
same is the proper method for a Court
Reporter's transcription of proceeding, and
that the dashes (--) do not indicate that
words or phrases have been left out of this
transcript.

Also, any words and/or names which could
not be verified through reference material
have been denoted with the phrase
"(inaudible)."

Mark LaCour, C.C.R.
89054

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, the undersigned reporter, do hereby
certify that the above and foregoing is a true
and correct transcription of the stenomask
tape of the proceedings had herein, taken down

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by me and transcribed under my supervision, to the best of my ability and understanding, at the time and place hereinbefore noted, in the above-entitled cause.

I further certify that the witness was duly sworn by me in my capacity as a Certified Court Reporter pursuant to the provisions of R.S. 37:2551 et seq. in and for the state of Louisiana; that I am not of counsel nor related to any of the counsel of any of the parties, nor in the employ of any of parties, and that I have no interest in the outcome of this action.

I further certify that my license is in good standing as a court reporter in and for the state of Louisiana.

Mark LaCour, C.C.R.

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